

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Divisional Application of

Yasuhiro SAKAI et al.

Parent Serial No.:

10/803,667

Parent Filed:

March 18, 2004

For:

Method of Staining and Detecting and Counting

Bacteria, and a Diluent for Bacterial Stain

deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 24, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being

Examiner: Group Art:

(Date of Deposit)

Kent H. Cheng

ed Representative

Signature

March 24, 2005 Date of Signature

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.